



ARABSAT-6A MISSION

MISSION OVERVIEW

SpaceX is targeting Wednesday, April 10 for a Falcon Heavy launch of the Arabsat-6A satellite from Launch Complex 39A (LC-39A) at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. The primary launch window opens at 6:35 p.m. EDT, or 22:35 UTC, and closes at 8:32 p.m. EDT, or 00:32 p.m. UTC on Thursday, April 11. A backup launch window opens on Thursday, April 11 at 6:35 p.m. EDT, or 22:35 UTC, and closes at 8:31 p.m. EDT, or 00:31 UTC on Friday, April 12. The satellite will be deployed approximately 34 minutes after liftoff.

Following booster separation, Falcon Heavy's two side boosters will attempt to land at SpaceX's Landing Zones 1 and 2 (LZ-1 and LZ-2) at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. Falcon Heavy's center core will attempt to land on the "Of Course I Still Love You" droneship, which will be stationed in the Atlantic Ocean.

WEBCAST

Launch webcast will go live about 20 minutes before liftoff at [spacex.com/webcast](https://www.spacex.com/webcast)

PHOTOS

High-resolution photos will be posted at [flickr.com/spacex](https://www.flickr.com/photos/spacex/)

PAYLOAD

Arabsat-6A is a high-capacity telecommunications satellite that will deliver television, radio, Internet, and mobile communications to customers in the Middle East, Africa, and Europe. Built on Lockheed Martin's enhanced LM 2100 platform, Arabsat-6A includes several innovations that provide advanced Ka-spot beam communications services and Ku and Ka-band coverages in addition to other frequency bands. It will be located at one of Arabsat's orbital positions and will support Arabsat's competitive position as the first operator in the region for satellite capacities and services.

LAUNCH FACILITY

Launch Complex 39A at Kennedy Space Center, Florida

Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center has a long and storied history dating back to the early 1960s. Originally built to support the Apollo program, LC-39A supported the first Saturn V launch (Apollo 4) and many subsequent Apollo missions, including Apollo 11 in July 1969. Beginning in the late 1970s, LC-39A was modified to support Space Shuttle launches, hosting the first and last shuttle missions to orbit in 1981 and 2011 respectively.

In 2014, SpaceX signed a 20-year lease with NASA for the use of historic LC-39A. Since then, the company has made significant upgrades to modernize the pad's structures and ground systems, while also preserving its important heritage. Extensive modifications to LC-39A have been made to support launches of both commercial and crew missions on SpaceX's Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy launch vehicles.



SPACE X CONTACT

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MISSION TIMELINE (all times approximate)

COUNTDOWN

Min/Sec	Event
- 53:00	SpaceX Launch Director verifies go for propellant load
- 50:00	1st stage RP-1 (rocket grade kerosene) loading begins
- 45:00	1st stage LOX (liquid oxygen) loading begins
- 35:00	2nd stage RP-1 (rocket grade kerosene) loading begins
- 18:30	2nd stage LOX loading begins
- 07:00	Falcon Heavy begins pre-launch engine chill
- 01:30	Flight computer commanded to begin final pre-launch checks
- 01:00	Propellant tanks pressurize for flight
- 00:45	SpaceX Launch Director verifies go for launch
- 00:02	Engine controller commands engine ignition sequence to start
- 00:00	Falcon Heavy liftoff

LAUNCH, LANDINGS, AND SATELLITE DEPLOYMENT

Min/Sec	Event
01:09	Max Q (moment of peak mechanical stress on the rocket)
02:30	Booster engine cutoff (BECO)
02:34	Side boosters separate from center core
02:51	Side boosters begin boostback burn
03:31	Center core engine shutdown/main engine cutoff (MECO)
03:35	Center core and 2nd stage separate
03:42	2nd stage engine starts
04:07	Fairing deployment
06:11	Side boosters begin entry burn
07:00	Center core begins entry burn
07:51	Side booster landings
08:48	2nd stage engine cutoff (SECO-1)
09:48	Center core landing
27:34	2nd stage engine restarts
29:00	2nd stage engine cutoff (SECO-2)
34:02	Arabsat-6A satellite deployment